



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 6:45 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - April 11, 2002

- ***In the West***, light showers are benefiting pastures and dryland small grains in ***northern California and the Northwest***. Very warm, dry weather in the ***Southwest*** favors fieldwork and irrigated crops, but continues to stress pastures and reduce spring and summer runoff potential.
- ***On the Plains***, isolated showers are developing from ***Nebraska southward into Texas***, providing much-needed moisture for winter wheat. However, warm, breezy conditions are reducing wheat's moisture availability in areas that remain dry. Today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 65 degrees F in ***Nebraska*** to near 90 degrees F on the ***southernmost High Plains***, in ***West Texas***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, warm weather is promoting winter wheat development in the ***Ohio Valley***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to approach 80 degrees F. Meanwhile, widespread showers are boosting topsoil moisture reserves ***west of the Mississippi River***, an area that turned dry during the winter.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers in the ***southern Atlantic States*** are maintaining favorable topsoil moisture levels for pastures, winter grains, and emerging summer crops. Meanwhile, wet conditions are subsiding from the ***Delta westward***, permitting a limited return to fieldwork, including corn and rice planting.

Outlook: The band of showers and thunderstorms stretching from the ***western Corn Belt to western Texas*** will slowly move eastward, reaching the ***East*** during the weekend. The rain will benefit portions of the ***central and southern Plains'*** wheat crop, moisten soils in the ***western Corn Belt***, and ease long-term drought in the ***East***, but may cause additional fieldwork delays across the ***South***. In contrast, mostly dry weather will persist into early next week across the ***northern Plains*** and the ***Southwest***. Additional showers are likely in the ***Northwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 16-20 calls for a wet weather pattern across the ***eastern Plains, interior South, and most of the Corn Belt***, but mostly dry weather ***west of the Rockies*** and in ***southern Florida***. A warm weather pattern is forecast nearly nationwide, although cool conditions will gradually overspread the ***northern and central Plains and the Northwest***.

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